

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)

Re Box V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO 97322220

2. Document D1 is regarded as closest prior art with respect to the subject matter of claim

1. It discloses an arrangement for testing a power output stage which has a 6 semiconductor bridge and is connected to a three-phase motor.

The arrangement also contains a control unit, which switches on a plurality of switches successively according to a predetermined program and in the process tests whether the voltages at the bridge outputs lie within a tolerance range.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the known arrangement by virtue of the fact that the feed lines to the motor windings can be interrupted by means of other switches.

The subject matter of claim 1 is consequently novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of realizing a differentiated testing of the switch bridge and the feed lines to the motor windings, the motor not being influenced, or being only imperceptibly influenced, during the testing.

The isolation of the motor from the bridge is realized by means of the abovementioned switches and the solution proposed thus involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

3. Claims 2 to 7 are dependent on claim 1 and thus likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

Re Box VIII

Certain observations on the international application

1. Contrary to PCT Article 6, claim 1 is not supported by the description.

The original description does not contain the words "simultaneously" and "feeds", but correspondingly "successively" and "feed lines".

2. Moreover, in claim 1, it appears to be necessary to amend the phrase "the feeds to the windings ..." with the phrase "the feed lines from the outputs of the half-bridges to the

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/052882

winding ..." in order to clarify the difference from the prior art (wherein there is already a switch, apart from the bridge switch, arranged upstream of the motor windings).

3. In the amended description, the applicant has replaced the expression "successively" by the expression "simultaneously".

Moreover, in the prior art (page 9), as in the original description, the bridge switches are switched on "one at a time" - "successively".

This replacement introduces facts which go beyond the content of the application in the version as originally filed. Consequently, PCT Article 19(2) i